Cape Illustrated Magazine.

It was about the middle of August, near as I can remember, Nagooka snake. The faithful anithat I started off on a week's hunt, | mai had detected, in some occult for game had grown a little scarce about our place; and it was on this hend, and had crept upon him even trip that I first met the Nagooka | more quietly than the negro had snake. I had heard all the way coming eastward about the peculiar traits ascribed to this animal, the great serpent had coiled himso well known in the region of Mozambique, but I looked upon be murderer and was slowly the wonderful stories of its sagacity | squeezing him to death. The thing had been described to me: | side and the narrow eyes glittered the flat head, big eyes, fat belly, with unholy joy, waiting to strike rattles at the end of the tail, like | breathe, his eyes bulging from It was claimed for the Nagooka black dropped, one by one, his dangerous snake, it possessed the shield With another twist of the good turn to one who had be- hear the bones crunching and snapfriended it.

after daybreak one morning, while | knockout, and muttering, almost pushing through the tangled inaudibly, t'e single word underbrush, I stumbled into an "Ikona," collapsed. It was al open, and fell almost directly on over in a moment. So quickly did with eyes that seemed quite human | thought of intervening till too late. in their expression. A horrible tascination riveted me to the spot, at the window, of the boys Curry touching the one that waved to time acquainted me with the

My first impulse, of course, was to shoot, but the longer I looked | grass to continue his ominous vigil about twenty leet from tip to tipa mild calf-like lustre, and seemed incapable of deceit. Still, you can never judge an umbrella by the cover, and I determined to let go. But when I raised my rifle to my shoulder the great head darted frantically in every direction, now raising itself in the air and again doubling up toward the body and scooting along the grass. The eyes, too, narrowed down to an ugly slit and so fascinated rae shoot, but was drawn towards the yellow and brown thing.

At this the eyes again opened trankly and pleadingly. At the same time the serpent set up an incessant rattle with its tail, and then I felt certain that I was up against a Nagooka snake. Hesitating no at night he made a very acceptable sentinel. I grew rather tired of Threats, persuasions, and entreaties proved futile. The animal renow) but to kill it or take it along home. Thanks to my guardian course. Otherwise I would not be here to tell the story.

In a short time my snake had never fancied Curry and Rice and the rag tag blacks about the place, with my own family, and especially with the children, his conduct the Nagooka did not warn us by a year was the hottest day I ever on all sides had taken every particle of moisture out of the atmoson the shakedown and finally, after midnight, lapsed into slumber, I when a terrific crash in the dining room awoke me, followed instantly

Basuto tongue. Our house contained three rooms. A large one used for combination kitchen and dining room occupied one side of the house, being separated from the two bedrooms by a hall. The building, of course, was very crude, and though I had rigged up some doors, our windows consisted merely of square holes in the logs. The hot weather permitted of everything being kept open in order to get all I knew immediately, was caused by the falling of the only lamp we scuffle told me that a terrific strug.

gle was in progress. It took but a trice to grab my leave them. The yells had subworked over towards the window.

> OR at Was

Hell was in the nigger's eyes, and POINTER out the Forster family that night had it not been for one thing-the way, the presence of the Basuto

approached my sleeping family. Hideous now in its fierceness, self in four coils about the would as fairy tales. Every detail of the arched neck swayed from side to and, most peculiar of all, the loud | the fatal blow. Too exhausted to those on the American rattlesnake. | their sockets, the poor fool of a that, though a most poisonous and club, assegai, and leopard skin one Christian virtue of doing a gleaming coil, so that we could ping, his arms dropped helpless by The whole thing seemed like his side, he lurched forward like a tommy rot to me until, shortly prize fighter who has received the an immense flat head, illuminated it take place, in fact, that I never

The appearance at that moment, and to save my soul I could not | and Rice, both terror stricken, remove, though my face was nearly | called me to action, and at the same either side in a slow, pendulum-like | wonderful human qualities and motion. I regained my senses as thoughtful sagaciousness of the suddenly as I had lost them, and, Nagooka snake, for the great anispringing back, was astonished not | mal had tried to withhold from to see the snake follow me. I soon killing his victim, at first simply noted the reason, however, for the disarming him, had thrust his tail

HERMAN BECKURTS, President.

FRED. W. Adams, Secretary animal was caught fast in the fork out of the window, and was even of a tree stump, and a bulge on now rattling lustily for assistance. either side prevented it from mov- Having performed his part in the drama, he shuffled across the floor and disappeared silently in the tal at the beautiful brute-he was As for the black, he was beyond all resuscitation. We picked up the more cruel it seemed to mur- his limp and lifeless form, so reder it. The eyes still maintained cently surcharged with brutal strength, and laid it near the edge of our clearing, where the Blooming Fool's Matabele friends found it in the morning.

A Pied Piper of Hamelin Wanted,

Birmingham Daily Post The question now exercising the minds of shopkeepers and others who occupy premises adjacent to. again that perforce I could not the Birmingham old Meat Market is, What will become of the rats? It is common knowledge that the old shambles in Gloucester street and in the passage running be tween that thoroughfare and the old market have been infested with rats for many years. They have bred there literally in thou longer now, I made a lever out of sands, despite many attempts, indimy gun barrel, and after consider- vidually and collectively, to keep able exertion, succeeded in extri- them under. This statement is no cating the huge body from the trap, exaggeration. As recently as and whatever misgivings I had van- | Christmas Eve over two hundred ished straightway when the great rats were taken alive on one thing curled up at my feet and butcher's premises, and on another gazed at me in mute thankfulness. day a hundred were caught in an-After that I could not shake him other slaughter house. To use the off. By day he was either travel- words of a wholesale butcher, the ling beside me or in the rear, and place is alive with them. When the premises were all occupied, abundance of food for the vermin the snake though and, as I neared | was provided by the offal of the home, shuddered at the though of slaughtered animals, but since introducing it into the home circle. | the removal of many dealers to the new market in Bradford street, the food supply of the rats has run fused to leave me. I saw there was short, a condition of things they no wav to get rid of the Nagooka | scarcely appreciate. Grown bold (for I was satisfied as to its identity | through hunger they are to be seen in the old market running over the floor in search of lood, angel I decided on the latter driven to eat orange peel, and fighting for that; and during the week their presence has attracted | ip in packages prepared to hold cona large number of sightseers; in become a fixture, and though he fact, it is the exception not to see tents colorless and contain respectively a crowd around the iron gates of the building both in Jamaica Row and Dean street. As a shopkeeper near by put it, "There have been was irreproachable. He made a hundreds of people watching hungood watch, for a stranger never dreds of rats all the week." Many approached our diggings but that of the vermin have commenced to migrate, and already some of the loud rattle. November 13 that stall keepers in the Vegetable Market are beginning to grumble. spent in Africa, and the night was | One gentleman informed us that no cooler. The sun had beat down rats had seen nuisance enough beon the veldt until it was completely fore to him, and he did not know baked In addition the bush fires | what he could do if hundreds of half starved ones invaded the market. On many occasions previously phere, and a lime kiln seemed like annoyance and trouble had been a brewery compared to one's caused through the sides and botmouth. For hours I tossed wearily toms of bags having been gnawed away, allowing the contents to spill on the ground. The individ seemed to have slept but a moment | ual in question was strongly of the opinion that some action should be taken by the authorities with a by hoarse screams of terror in the view to the extermination, or at any rate the diminution, of the pests; "and," added he, "now is a fitting time to wage war on them." The objection to the authorities taking action as regards the old slaughter houses, where the rats abound, is that they are private property; but seeing that the old market is unoccupied for the

greater part of the week, and that the rats frequent there, traps, snares, or even poison might be used, or other steps taken to rid the ventilation possible. The crash, the place of the rodents, and to prevent their migration to surrounding premises, or possibly possessed, and the groans and even to the new Meat Market itself. They will scarcely find the last named place so congenial for thriving and multiplying as the gun and clap shut the door into the old slaugther houses by reason of next room, where the wife and the concrete floors They may get children were grouped, panic there, and doubtless some of them stricken and imploring me not to will do so, but in the absence of secure hiding places they will run sided somewhat now, but the strug- the risk of being easily caught and gle continued, and, waiting for a killed. That, at any rate, is the moment when the particip ints had opinion of the market authorities. However one looks at the matter, I sprang in with my rifle cocked. | there can be ro doubt that the de-Believe me, good people, when I serted rats threaten to be serious tell you that there in the middle of nuisance to the neighborhood, and the floor, grasping a huge knob several shopkeepers and dealers kerry, his massive trame reeking | have already taken steps to secure with perspiration, and just on the their premises against the entrance point of collapse, stood Blooming of the vermin-an example which Fool, the Basuto. He nad evi- might well be followed by others dently come for his long promised ere it is too late. The Pied Piper revenge, for he was togged up in of Hamelin might do better here the peculiar war costume of his than he did in the old German tribe, painted with vermilion, a town near Brunswick. It is not ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT dozen strings of brass about his only in the vicinity of the old Meat neck and Kaffir charms galore | Market that they are to be found, adorning his limbs. He had not for they swarm in other places seckoned on his host, however, for nearer the centre of the city, and redid a man bent on murder get have been something more than a correception. The light of nuisance to many tradesmen.



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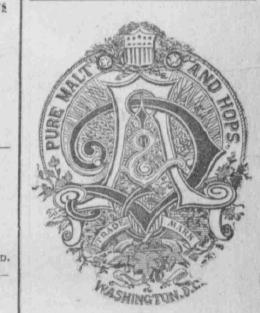
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